drugs, pspecially alcohol, tobacco and painkillers was most common.

(ii) The 1985-86 study indicated that legally crohibited drug use was around 2%. This was in contrast to the finding of 1975-76 study which showed that use of such drugs was negligible.

(iii) Drug abuse was more common among boys than girls. Girls mainly used pain-killers and the use of illicit drugs among girls was practically negligible.

(iv) Drug abuse was more prevalent among students with urben background, especially those studying in Central, Public on convent schools, hailing from nuclear families and residents of college hostels or saying away from their families.

(v) Causes for drug abuse were mainly psychological such as satisfying curiosity, relieving tension, and also peer pressure.

(c) Though no firm statistics is available, however, different studies undertaken indicate that there is an increasing trend of drug abuse.

(d) A Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Prohibition and Drug Abuse prevention is being implemented by this Ministry under which grant-in-aid to the extent of 90% of the estimated expenditure is released to the voluntary organisations for the running/maintenance of Awareness, counselling and Assistance Centres/De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres/ De-addiction Camps etc. At present, there are 357 centres all over the country which are being funded under the scheme. This Ministry is strengthening the awareness building, preventive education programmes for drug demand reduction and expanding Counselling, De-addiction and Rehabilitation Centres.

The Ministry is also in touch with the Department of Youth Affairs and its various wings such as Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangthan, NSS, Youth Club etc. to generate awareness about Drug Abuse Prevention. The Ministry on 28th 29th November, 1996 also organised a workshop on "Youth Health including Drug Abuse Alcohol and AIDS" in collaboration with the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports to sensitise selected NGOs and regional level coordinators of NSS and Nehru Yuvak: Kendra as well as key officials working in the field of Youth and Drug Abuse Prevention.

The Ministry in collaboration with UNDCP, UNICEF and Ministry of Health have also conducted a study on "Reducing Risk Behaviour relating to HIV/AIDS/STD, Drug Abuse amongst street Children". City Level Workshops in four cities, namely, Bombay, Hyderabad, Calcutta and Delhi is well as a National level Workshop has been held for developing City level and National Level Work plans.

The Ministry apart from assisting voluntary agencies for awareness generation programmes also conducts its own awareness generation and Preventive Education Programme for Drug Abuse Prevention through various media channels, such as Electronic Media, Posters, Hordings, Kiosks etc.

Reservation to Economically Backward pesons of forward castes

259. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce legislation giving 10 per cent reservation to economically backward persons belonging to the "forward castes";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA):

(a) to (c) The Supreme Court of India in its judgement in the case of Indira Sawhney and others Vs. Union of India and others has directed that reservation should not exceed 50 per cent of the appointments in grade, cadre or service in any given year. Since the existing reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes is 49.5 percent, no further reservation in respect of any other category is contemplated.

Welfare schemes in backward area of Biar for SC/ST

260. **SHRI GYAN RANJAN:** Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the welfare schemes being implemented by Government in the backward areas of Bihar for upliftment of SC/ST;

(b) the time since these schemes are being implemented;

(c) if not being implemented, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of schemes still pending for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) There are no separate schemes being implemented specifically in backward areas of Bihar for the upliftment of SCs and STs under the ages of Ministry of Welfare. However, the details of welfare schemes of the Ministry of Welfare for the upliftment of SCs & STs which are being implemented in Bihar including its backward areas alongwith the time since when these are being implemented are given at enclosed Statement-I. In respect of Scheduled Castes and at Statement-II in respect of Scheduled Tribes. (*see* below)

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statement I

Names of the schemes being implemented for upliftment of Scheduled Castes in Bihar under the ageis of Ministry of Welfare alongwith the time since when these are being implemented.

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	The time by which these schemes are being implemented.
1.	SCA to SCP	1980
2.	Assistance to Scheduled Castes Development Corporation	1978-79
3.	National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Finance and Dev. Corporation	1989-90
4.	Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents	1991-92
5.	Post Matric Scholarship for SC/ST students	1944-45
6.	Pre Matric Scholarship for Children whose parents are engaged in unclean occupations	1977-78
7.	Book Banks for SC/ST students	1978-79
8.	Girls Hostels for SCs	1961-62
9.	Boys Hostels for SCs	1989-90
10.	Coaching & Allied Schemes	1961-62
11.	Upgradation of merit of SC/ST students	1987-88